

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 40

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RUPP.

Pre-filed December 1, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0331S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the higher education academic scholarship program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250. 1. There is hereby established a "Higher Education Academic
2 Scholarship Program" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for
3 this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend
4 a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this
5 section.

6 2. The definitions of terms set forth in section [173.205] **173.1102** shall
7 be applicable to such terms as used in this section. [The term "academic
8 scholarship" means an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a
9 qualified college or university student who has demonstrated superior academic
10 achievement pursuant to the provisions of this section.] **In addition, the
11 following definitions shall apply:**

12 (1) **"Academic scholarship", an amount of money paid by the state
13 of Missouri to a student pursuant to the provisions of this section;**

14 (2) **"ACT", the American College Testing Program examination;**

15 (3) **"Approved institution", an approved public or approved
16 private institution as defined in section 173.1102;**

17 (4) **"Eligible student", an individual who meets the criteria set
18 forth in section 173.1104, excluding the requirements of financial need
19 and undergraduate status, and in addition, meets the following**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 requirements:

21 (a) Has achieved a qualifying score on the ACT or SAT;

22 (b) Is a Missouri resident who has completed secondary
23 coursework through graduation from high school, receipt of a general
24 education development diploma (GED), or completion of a program of
25 study through homeschooling; and

26 (c) Is enrolled full-time or accepted for full-time enrollment as
27 a postsecondary student at an approved institution during the
28 academic year immediately following the completion of his or her
29 secondary coursework;

30 (5) "Missouri test-takers", all Missouri high school seniors who
31 take the ACT or the SAT;

32 (6) "Qualifying score", a composite score on the ACT or the SAT
33 achieved as a high school sophomore, junior, or senior, that is in the
34 top three percent of Missouri test-takers for fiscal years prior to 2011,
35 and five percent of Missouri test-takers for fiscal year 2011 and each
36 fiscal year thereafter, as established at the beginning of an eligible
37 student's final year of secondary coursework;

38 (7) "Recipient", an eligible or renewal student who receives an
39 academic scholarship pursuant to this section;

40 (8) "Renewal student", an eligible student who remains in
41 compliance with the provisions of section 173.1104, maintains
42 continuous enrollment, and makes satisfactory academic degree
43 progress;

44 (9) "SAT", the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

45 3. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative
46 agency for the implementation of the program established by this section, and
47 shall:

48 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its
49 functions and the effectuation of the purposes of this section, including
50 regulations for granting scholarship deferments;

51 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic
52 scholarships, and shall supervise the processing thereof; and

53 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such
54 awards of academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the
55 manner and method of payment to the recipient.

56 4. [A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship

57 if he or she is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section
58 173.215 excluding the requirement of financial need and undergraduate status,
59 and in addition meets the following requirements:

60 (1) Initial academic scholarships shall be offered in the academic year
61 immediately following graduation from high school to Missouri high school seniors
62 whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program (ACT) or the
63 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are in the top five percent of
64 all Missouri students taking those tests during the school year in which the
65 scholarship recipients graduate from high school. In the freshman year of college,
66 scholarship recipients are required to maintain status as a full-time student;

67 (2) Academic scholarships are renewable if the recipient remains in
68 compliance with the applicable provisions of section 173.215 and the recipient
69 makes satisfactory academic degree progress as a full-time student.

70 5. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a
71 postsecondary student at an approved private or public institution beginning with
72 the fall 1987, term and who meets the other eligibility requirements for an
73 academic scholarship shall, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made
74 available, be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of two thousand
75 dollars for each eligible student whose composite scores on the American College
76 Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College
77 Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests
78 during the school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high
79 school for each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2011, and, subject to appropriations,
80 three thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year thereafter, and
81 one thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year thereafter for each
82 eligible student whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program
83 (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are between the
84 top five and three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests during the
85 school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high school, for the
86 first academic year of study, which scholarship shall be renewable in the amount
87 of two thousand dollars for each eligible student whose composite scores on the
88 American College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
89 of the College Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking
90 those tests during the school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate
91 from high school for each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2011, and, subject to
92 appropriations, three thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year

93 thereafter, and one thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year
94 thereafter for each eligible student whose composite scores on the American
95 College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the
96 College Board are between the top five and three percent of all Missouri students
97 taking those tests during the school year in which the scholarship recipients
98 graduate from high school, annually for the second, third and fourth academic
99 years or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the applicable eligibility
100 requirements set forth in section 173.215, provided those years of study are
101 continuous and the student continues to meet eligibility requirements for the
102 scholarship; provided, however, if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved
103 public or private institution for the purpose of providing service to a nonprofit
104 organization, a state or federal government agency or any branch of the armed
105 forces of the United States, the recipient shall be eligible for a renewal
106 scholarship upon return to any approved public or private institution, provided
107 the recipient:

- 108 (1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;
- 109 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher
110 education rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily
111 completed and was not compensated other than for expenses or that the service
112 to the state or federal governmental agency or branch of the armed forces of the
113 United States was satisfactorily completed; and
- 114 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a
115 renewal scholarship.

116 **6.] Eligible students shall be offered academic scholarships in**
117 **the following amounts, within the limits of the funds appropriated and**
118 **made available:**

119 **(1) During each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2011, each eligible**
120 **student with a qualifying score in the top three percent of all Missouri**
121 **test-takers shall be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of**
122 **two thousand dollars per year;**

123 **(2) During fiscal year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter:**

124 **(a) Each eligible student with a qualifying score in the top three**
125 **percent of all Missouri test-takers shall be offered an academic**
126 **scholarship in the amount of three thousand dollars per year; and**

127 **(b) Each eligible student with a qualifying score in the top five**
128 **percent shall be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of one**

129 **thousand dollars per year;**

130 **(3) Eligible students may renew academic scholarships for their**
131 **second, third, and fourth years of postsecondary education, or as long**
132 **as the recipient is in compliance with the criteria to be a renewal**
133 **student;**

134 **(4) If an eligible student is unable to enroll during the first**
135 **academic year or a renewal student ceases attendance at an approved**
136 **institution for the purpose of providing service to a nonprofit**
137 **organization, a state or federal government agency, or any branch of**
138 **the armed forces of the United States, such student shall be offered an**
139 **academic scholarship upon enrollment in any approved institution**
140 **after the completion of their service, if the student meets all other**
141 **requirements for an initial or renewal award and if the following**
142 **criteria are met:**

143 **(a) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved**
144 **institution as a result of service to a non-profit organization or the**
145 **state or federal government, the student returns to full-time status**
146 **within twenty-seven months and provides verification to the**
147 **coordinating board for higher education that the service to the**
148 **nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and was not**
149 **compensated other than for expenses, or that the service to the state or**
150 **federal government was satisfactorily completed; or**

151 **(b) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved**
152 **institution as a result of military service in the armed forces of the**
153 **United States, the student returns to full-time status within six months**
154 **after the eligible student first ceases service to the armed forces and**
155 **provides verification to the coordinating board for higher education**
156 **that the military service was satisfactorily completed.**

157 **5. A recipient of an academic scholarship awarded under this section may**
158 **transfer from one approved [Missouri public or private] institution to another**
159 **without losing eligibility for the academic scholarship.**

160 **6. If a recipient of [the] an academic scholarship at any time withdraws**
161 **from an approved [private or public] institution so that under the rules and**
162 **regulations of that institution he or she is entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees**
163 **or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund attributable**
164 **to the academic scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for higher**
165 **education.**

166 7. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if [a
167 recipient] **an eligible student** has been awarded an initial academic scholarship
168 pursuant to the provisions of this section but is unable to [use the scholarship]
169 **attend an approved institution** during the first academic year because of
170 illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or if a [recipient] **renewal**
171 **student** ceases all attendance at an approved [public or private] institution
172 because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient shall
173 be eligible for an initial or renewal **academic** scholarship upon enrollment in or
174 return to any approved [public or private] institution, provided the recipient:

175 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

176 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher
177 education rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability,
178 pregnancy or other medical need of such person to require that that person will
179 not be able to use the [initial or renewal] **academic** scholarship during the time
180 period for which it was originally offered; and

181 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an
182 [initial or a renewal] **academic** scholarship.

Bill ✓

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